



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

July 31, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

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CALIFORNIA FILM COMMISSION'S MODEL FILM ORDINANCE AND BEST PRACTICES

On July 24, 2012, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, the Board directed this Office to revise the County's current film practices in accordance with the recently revised California Film Commission's Model Film Ordinance, and review the Film Commission's suggested Best Practices for incorporation into the County's practices to the extent practicable, and bring the revisions back to the Board within 30 days for adoption. The Board also directed this Office to report back on the impacts on the film industry 2010 filming permit increases for the Fire Department.

As outlined below, we are recommending that the California Film Commission's Model Film Ordinance and Best Practices be reviewed for adoption as a Board Policy, after confirming there are no conflicts between these documents and current County Code. The report on the impacts of the Fire Department's 2010 filming permit increases on the film industry will be provided under separate cover.

Background

As indicated in our March 7, 2011 memorandum to the Board, this Office has been holding semi-annual filming activity coordination meetings with the California Film Commission, film industry representatives, FilmL.A., Board offices, and County departments involved in filming activities. These meetings provide a forum for discussing filming-related issues in the County and ways to improve the collaboration between the film industry, the County, and our residents. More recently, this Office has also been working with the County's Commission on Local Governmental Services, the City of Carson, and the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), to review the Commission's revised Model Film Ordinance and suggested Best Practices, and how to assist local cities in becoming more "film friendly."

At the June 14, 2012 semi-annual filming coordination meeting, this Office recommended that the Commission's revised Model Film Ordinance and suggested Best Practices be adopted as a Board Policy, after considering the following reasons:

- Existing County Code sections related to filming are addressed in 11 Titles and 16 Chapters, as many are tightly integrated with other non-filming-related ordinances. The Commission's Model Film Ordinance, in its current form, does not lend itself well to County Code's format, and removing, modifying, or relocating various Code sections may be problematic.

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- The Model Film Ordinance and the suggested Best Practices may be further modified, as local municipalities begin to adopt the California Film Commission's language and suggest additional changes, resulting in situations where the Board may need to consider multiple County Code changes.
- Board Policy provides a more flexible and suitable vehicle for the Board to express its support for facilitating our interface with the filming community and encouraging retention of this critical industry.

Representatives from the California Film Commission, the film industry, FilmL.A., and County departments were very receptive to this approach. In addition, preliminary analysis indicates that the Model Film Ordinance and the suggested Best Practices are not in conflict with current County Code sections associated with filming. We believe this approach is consistent with the Board's direction of July 24, 2012, referenced above.

We anticipate presenting the Board Policy, incorporating as appropriate the Model Film Ordinance and Best Practices, to the Audit Committee within 45 days, after which the Policy will be submitted to the Board for approval.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Martin Zimmerman at 213.974.1326 or mzimmerman@ceo.lacounty.gov.

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MKZ:FC:ib

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